

## READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is

### **The Disciples**

from Luke 5:1-11; 8:1-3; Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9-13; 10:1-4.

#### **Jesus calls ordinary people to be disciples.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Jesus
- Disciple
- Fish
- Simon Peter
- Catch

A disciple is anybody who is a learner or student who tries to follow Jesus by studying his words, actions, teachings, and story. Doing this changes your life!

#### **Read the whole story together in the Bible!**

*Spark Story Bible* pages 258-263

*Spark Bible* pages 1061, 1068-1069, 1135, 1140

#### **Family Prayer**

**Thank you, Jesus, for calling perfectly ordinary people to be your followers. Help us to answer that call in the way we live as a family. AMEN.**

## TALK ABOUT IT



### **Family Conversations**

- 1** Who do you know that follows Jesus today?
- 2** What other amazing things do you know about Jesus?
- 3** What other stories about the disciples do you know?
- 4** Shuffle a deck of cards. Take turns drawing one without looking. If you draw an odd number, talk about a difficult thing you had to learn to do. If you draw an even number, share how you are a disciple. If you draw a face card, sing a silly song.



#### **Eye Spark**

When you see (or eat!) fish, remember the amazing story of Jesus and the disciples and boats overflowing with fish.



#### **Ear Spark**

Next time you hear someone calling your name, remember that Jesus calls you by name to be his disciple.

## LIVE IT

### **For families to do together**

Using your Spark Story Bible or Spark Bible, see how many stories about the disciples you can find. What did these people do before they were disciples? What did they do after they became disciples? How did their lives change when they started to follow Jesus and learn from him?

### **For younger kids**

Look up the word *disciple* in a dictionary. Make a sticky note reminder or a picture for your refrigerator illustrating the definition.

### **For older kids**

Using an image search engine or a digital camera, put together a slide show of pictures of people being disciples of Jesus—caring for the poor, studying the Bible, worshipping God, etc.

## TRY IT

### Art

The story of Jesus' disciples brings home the importance of being active in Jesus' ministry in the world. Why not be active and create a picture or write a card? Take some time as a family to pull out the art supplies and create a special drawing or write a note for someone. Reach out and deliver your creations.

### Computer Lab

Find a free fishing game online and try it as a family. Then talk about what it means to fish for fish. How does that compare to Jesus asking the disciples to fish for people? How does the analogy work now? Is there a more familiar one for people today?

### Creative Drama

Play Disciple Charades. One person is Jesus. Everyone else is a disciple. Disciples go to different rooms and pretend to be busy doing something. Jesus travels from room to room guessing what each disciple is doing. When Jesus guesses correctly, the disciple stops this action and follows Jesus to the next room.

### Video

Choose a day where everyone in the family walks away from their jobs—household chores, deadlines, homework—and “follows Jesus” by doing something in his name. It could range from volunteering to a family retreat. Whether it involves engagement with the world or gently withdrawing from it, make Jesus the focus.

### Bible Skills and Games

Jesus called 12 disciples. Can everyone in your family remember their names? Create a game to help them remember. Maybe it's a guessing game, an “I'm going on a trip and I'm going to bring Matthew” game, or another way to say and repeat all 12 names.

### Cooking

The disciples decided to do something different with their lives. Have a dinner that is different for your family to remind everyone of this decision to do something different and follow Jesus. Here's one idea: Instead of regular lasagna, roll up lasagna filling into the noodles, top with cheese, and bake as normal.

### Music

When the disciples were called, they did two things. First, they listened. Play favorite music selections or try a new genre or type of music to listen to together. Then they dropped everything to follow Jesus. Sometimes busy parents give the response, “Not now.” Try dropping everything to follow your child's lead.

### Science

Play a game of Finding Followers. The goal is to find examples of wild animals following each other. Examples include geese flying in v-shaped formations, a family of ducks marching to a pond, ants parading back to their nest, and bees streaming from flowers to a hive.